

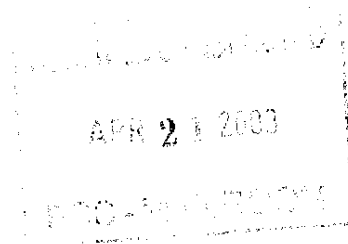
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C.  
20554

April 14, 2003

Re: Docket 02-277



Hello,

In the fall of 2001 I took a class on the World War II home front. I chose as my subject radio broadcasting. I did a lot of research into one of the biggest events in domestic radio broadcasting during the war, the creation of ABC. It came out of FCC regulations forcing the sale of The Blue Network Company to Alfred J. Nobel, best known as the Lifesavers candy king.

The regulation was created after an investigation into the two company/three radio-network monopoly of RCA and CBS. The investigation started when President Roosevelt asked FCC Chairman James L. Fly if newspaper ownership of radio stations threatened an information monopoly that could deny him his radio audience. Fly told him that it was David Sarnoff and William S. Paley who had a monopoly over most of what the public could hear on the radio. The results of the investigation were published in the 1941 *Report on Chain Broadcasting*. It outlined how CBS and RCA monopolized the broadcasting business, including how RCA would yank local station owners around by threatening them with inclusion into the less profitable NBC-Blue network.

After a political struggle with much heated rhetoric, the regulation was passed, and the country went from a two company monopoly to a three company oligopoly.

In 1946, the dual Network rule was passed, preventing one company from owning two television networks. I suspect that everyone had NBC-Blue on their mind when this rule was commissioned.

Now, Chairman Michael K. Powell wants to drop six regulations, two from 1941. I think those are the result of Chairman Fly and the investigation spelled out in the *Report on Chain Broadcasting*. These include the dual Network ownership rule.


Mr. Powell seems to think that in an age of cable, satellite and the internet, such regulations are not needed.

Mr. Powell should read the *Report on Chain Broadcasting*, or just *Tube of Plenty* by Erik Barnouw. Yes, the regulations are needed. Yes, without all six regulations, a television monopoly, similar to those of NBC-Red, NBC-Blue and CBS will be established. It was not in the public interest that such monopolies exist in 1941, it won't be after June 2, 2003.

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List A B C D E \_\_\_\_\_

All six regulations should be kept on the books.

There is a lot of political power to be found in any large institution, and Time Warner AOL, Disney, Newscorp and CBS/Viacom have world-wide influence. They should not be allowed to become more powerful at the expense of the public interest. That was the idea behind the *Report on Chain Broadcasting* of 1941.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley Laing". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bradley Laing

Telephone numbers:

Macomb, IL: (309) 298-6664

Lansing, MI: (517) 482-1990

Addresses

Current:

1317 Tanner Hall  
740 West University Drive  
Macomb, IL  
61455

After May 7, 2003:

2225 Montego Dr.,  
Lansing, MI  
48912